

## [R. H. Roatz]

Richard Lamb Austin, Texas INTERVIEW WITH R. H. RAATZ

R. H. Raatz, 602 West 14th, born Austin, December 29, 1868. His father, Julius, came to Austin November 1854, was in business as a cabinet maker at start of Civil War; was commissioned by Military Board in 1861 to make powder horns for soldiers of the Confederate army. Farmers brought horns in every two weeks. The factory was at 600 West 14th - torn down last year. Father had four men helping - would put horns in barrels of hot lard and soften them, then shape them as they wanted - flat so they would fit the body.

He then enlisted in army and went to the front.

"Daddy came back to Austin in '65. He was like a wild man, carried a big knife and wanted to fight on the smallest provocation. Mother said, if daddy didn't cool down and quit running the streets of Austin so wild she would go back to her mother's at New [?]. Daddy said that he did not know any other way to act after what he had been through, but he did cool down.

"Mother stayed at the old shop all through war, lived on meat furnished by government and fruit and vegetables she raised right at home. At that time she had one baby boy, Otto [?], who lives at 2800 block Guadalupe.

"After (governer R. J.) Davis came with his damn Yankees, mother got along pretty good for daddy had always raised lots of tobacco and had it stored at home. The damn Yankees were crazy for tobacco and would trade her a whole sack of flour for any amount of tobacco she would give them.

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“Before the damn Yankees came, the 'Home-guards' (militia) would come around to our house every few days, like they did to the others, to see how mother was getting along and see what she needed, they nearly always brought some meat and other things like potatoes, clothes, meal and flour. There were lots of cattle running in the woods and anyone would kill them. No one ever questioned a 'Home-guard' or soldier when they killed a beef. C. 12 2/11/41 [?] 2 If anybody got caught killing another fellow's cattle, the owner would make request for payment at the Military Board and they would pay off.

“There was no hunger or suffering in Austin during the war mother said, Headquarters was here and home folks running it, and they saw to it that everybody got enough to eat and wear from the military stores and funds.

“Daddy said that while he was still in Austin they got powder from San Antonio which would not shoot a rifle ball as far as I could throw a ball, nor half as hard. Daddy and other soldiers burned up most of the San Antonio powder.